

good suggestions, or especially emphasized suggestions previously made, particularly in regard to the dangers of privy pits; and the substitution of earth closets, as best were there is no water carriage system. With the "conclusion," "that in all places constructing systems of sewage it is desirable that sewage be delivered at its outfall separately from storm water," we are not in full accord. Possibly this is erroneously reported. We think that it is not by any means yet clear that the separate system is "in all" cases best. It is the most economical of construction; but the storm water is a great flusher and cleaner of the sewers and may not yet be universally discarded. But "that the most desirable method of sewage disposal is by land irrigation wherever practicable," is just what this JOURNAL has always contended, and we are glad the committee have so clearly emphasized it. It is desirable that some one be sent to Europe "to study the most advanced and recent methods of sewage disposal which have been introduced in places there, especially as regards sewage farming." But if the Federal Government will consent to send Mr. Macfarlane, the chief analyst, just the man for such a commission, we do not see why Ontario should incur the expense of sending a man too.

"PROHIBITIONISTS" should consider well the effects of the efforts to suppress the use of whiskey in Ireland some years ago. Not long ago the able editor of the British Medical Journal, Dr. Ernest Hart, made an investigation and lengthy report upon the terrible effects of ether-drinking in Ireland. The Times is now discussing the subject. It seems that in five counties, with a total population of 350,000, there are about 46,000 who actually drink 17,000 gallons of "vite," an impure form of ether, per year. This habit is said to have originated years ago, when illicit stills were suppressed and Father Matthew's crusade made whiskey-drinking disreputable. The ravages of the habit are described as comparable only with those of the use of opium among the low classes of Chinese. Insanity is largely on the increase in the districts and the death-rate among the children of the ether maniacs is very high. We have always contended that until mankind can be properly housed and fed and trained into healthy vigorous subjects, able to exercise sufficient self control, the suppression of the use of alcoholic stimulants will but give rise to worse forms of intemperance.

TOBACCO USERS may get "food for reflection" too from the contention that the decrease in the average stature of men as compared with that of women, which investigators have pointed out

to be taking place in England, is due to the stunting effects of the tobacco habit on the men. This we think, considering the well known effects of tobacco on the human constitution, on the circulation especially, the chief nutrient function, through the nervous system, is a reasonable contention. What habit, peculiar to men only, is there which would be more likely to cause such decrease in stature? As we have before stated, we believe that the tobacco habit, in its powerful and insidious effects upon the constitution, is on the whole more injurious, more lowering to the human organization, morally as well as physically, than the alcoholic habit; while many have declared from their own experience that the depressing effects of tobacco have absolutely created a desire for alcoholic stimulation.

IN THIS connection we may note what the Journal of Heredity says, as follows: One of the first things demanded of a young man who is going into training for a boat race is, stop smoking! And he himself, long before his body has reached its highest point of purity and development, will become conscious of the lowering and disturbing effect of smoking one inch of a mild cigar. No smoker who has trained severely for a race, or a game, or a fight, needs to be told that smoking reduces the tone of the system and diminishes all the forces of the body.

THE SICK who patronize travelling doctors and "firms" of "celebrated physicians" may take warning from the fact that a firm visiting Milwaukee consisted of one "Dr." Jansen, who did not know a word of the Chinese language, but who acted as interpreter to an "eminent Chinese physician, versed in Oriental medical lore," who was nothing more than a "picked up" "laundry man," one Gun Wa. As "Good Health" says, there are many firms of travelling doctors possessed of no greater medical ability than that of the Gun Wa Company, and yet thousands of people patronize these travelling charlatans, while they would not grant the great medical geniuses who, lacking reputation at home, are obliged to travel from place to place in territory where they are unknown, the loan of a five dollar bill, if requested to do so, without asking some satisfactory security.

MORE "Grand old men" are mentioned apropos of an article in the April issue of this JOURNAL, in which a number such were referred to, in the Graphic, of Chicago, in referring to the recent election of Gen. Palmer to the U. S. Senate: "There are many men of prominence much older than Gen. Palmer. Gen. Neal Dow, aged 88; David Dudley Field, 86; Gen'l Joseph, E. Johnston, 83; ex-Speaker